Air pollution norms

1880. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently revised air pollution norms putting in place uniform air quality standards for residential and industrial areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has decided to set up the National Environment Protection Authority and the National Green Tribunal to ensure effective enforcement of the standards; and

(d) if so, what role would be played by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has published a Gazette Notification *vide* G.S.R. 826 (E) on 16th November, 2009 (*See* below) in respect of National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Area classification based on land-use has been done away with so that there are uniform ambient air quality norms for residential and industrial areas. Five new parameters have been included for ambient air quality assessment which include Ozone, Benzene, Benzo(a) Pyrene, Arsenic and Nickel. In addition, $PM_{2.5}$ (particulate matter having size less than 2.5 micron) has replaced the parameter for suspended particulate matter (SPM).

(c) and (d) The Government has undertaken the task of conceptualizing the framework of the National Environment Protection Authority. As far as the National Green Tribunal is concerned, the National Green Tribunal Bill, 2009 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 31st July, 2009. The Central Pollution Control Board would be able to approach the said tribunal on behalf of affected persons for grant of relief or compensation or settlement of disputes.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 16th November, 2009

G.S.R. 826(E). — In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 and section 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, namely:-

1. (1) These rules may be called the Environment (Protection) Seventh Amendment Rules, 2009.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as the said rules), in rule 3, in sub-rule (3B), for the words, brackets, figures and letters, "in columns (3) to (5) of Schedule VII", the words, brackets, figures and letters "in columns (4) and (5) of Schedule VII" shall be substituted.

3. For Schedule VII to the said rules and entries relating thereto, the following Schedule and entries shall be substituted, namely:-

"[SCHEDULE VII]

[*See* rule 3(3B)]

NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

Sl. No.	Pollutant	Time Weighted Average	Concentration in Ambient Air		Methods of Measurement
			Industrial, Residential, Rural and Other Area	Ecologically Sensitive Area (Notified by Central Government)	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2), $\mu g/m^3$	Annual*	50	20	— Improved West and Gaeke
		24 hours**	80	80	— Ultraviolet fluorescence
2.	Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2), $\mu g/m^3$	Annual*	40	30	— Modified Jacob and Hochheiser (Na-Arsenite)
		24 hours**	80	80	— Chemiluminescence
3.	Particulate Matter (size less than 10µm) or PM_{10} $\mu g/m^3$	Annual*	60	60	— Gravimetric — TOEM
		24 hours**	100	100	— Beta attenuation
4.	Particulate Matter (size less than 2.5µm) or $PM_{2.5}$ $\mu g/m^3$	Annual*	40	40	— Gravimetric — TOM
		24 hours**	60	60	— Beta attenuation
5.	Ozone (O_3), $\mu g/m^3$	8 hours**	100	100	— UV photometric — Chemilminescence
		1 hour**	180	180	— Chemical Method

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Lead (Pb) $\mu g/m^3$	Annual*	0.50	0.50	— AAS/ICP method after sampling on EPM 2000 or equivalent filter paper
		24 hours**	1.0	1.0	— ED-XRF using Teflon filter
7.	Carbon Monoxide (CO) mg/m^3	8 hours**	02	02	— Non Dispersive Infra Red (NDIR) Spectroscopy
		1 hour**	04	04	
8.	Ammonia (NH_3) $\mu g/m^3$	Annual*	100	100	— Chemiluminescence
		24 hours**	400	400	— Indophenol blue method
9.	Benzene (C_6H_6) $\mu g/m^3$	Annual*	05	05	— Gas chromatography based continuous analyzer — Adsorption and Des-orption followed by GC analysis
10.	Benzo(a) Pyrene (BaP) — particulate phase only, ng/m^3	Annual*	01	01	— Solvent extraction followed by HPLC/GC analysis
11.	Arsenic (As) ng/m^3	Annual*	06	06	— AAS/ICP method after sampling on EPM 2000 or equivalent filter paper
12.	Nickel (Ni), ng/m^3	Annual*	20	20	— AAS/ICP method after sampling on EPM 2000 or equivalent filter paper

* Annual arithmetic mean of minimum 104 measurements in a year at a particular site taken twice a week 24 hourly at uniform intervals.

** 24 hourly or 08 hourly or 01 hourly monitored values, as applicable, shall be complied with 98% of the time in a year. 2% of the time, they may exceed the limits but not on two consecutive days of monitoring.

Note — Whenever and wherever monitoring results on two consecutive days of monitoring exceed the limits specified above for the respective category, it shall be considered adequate reason to institute regular or continuous monitoring and further investigation."

[F. No. Q-15017/43/2007-CPW]

RAJNEESH DUBE, Jt. Secy.

Note :- The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary *vide* number S.O.844(E), dated the 19th November, 1986; and subsequently amended *vide* numbers S.O.433(E), dated the 18th April, 1987; GSR. 176 (E), dated the 2nd April 1996; and were recently amended *vide* numbers G.S.R.97(E), dated the 18th February, 2009; G.S.R.149(E), dated the 4th March, 2009; G.S.R.512(E), dated the 9th July, 2009; G.S.R.543(E), dated the 22nd July, 2009; G.S.R.595(E), dated the 21st August, 2009; and G.S.R.794(E), dated the 4th November, 2009.

Vulture deaths

1881. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether malaria is a major cause for vulture deaths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the projects taken up, so far, to stop such vulture deaths; and

(d) the funds allocated and spent during the last five years especially for Andhra Pradesh forest areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per information available, malaria is not the cause of mass mortality of vultures in India. The main cause of mortality of Gyps species of vultures in India and south Asia is the veterinary drug called diclofenac sodium, a non-steroidal pain-killer given to cattle. If cattle die after being injected with this drug due to disease or old age and vultures feed on such a carcass, they die of kidney failure.

There has been mass decline in the Gyps vulture population all over the country in nineties. However, State-wise details of vulture mortality have not been collated at Central level.

(c) The Ministry has supported vulture conservation breeding centres at Pinjore (Haryana), Buxa (West Bengal) and Rani Reserve Forests (Assam) through the respective State Governments. Funds have also been provided to Bombay Natural History Society for advocacy work under the project "Monitoring and Use of Veterinary Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs and Painkillers and their Distribution around Selected Vulture Sites".

(d) The details of funds released to different States including Andhra Pradesh for vulture conservation during the last five years are as follows:

Sl. No.	State	Amount (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	41.00
3.	Orissa	41.00